

JOURNAL OF THE  
**BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

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Volume 12

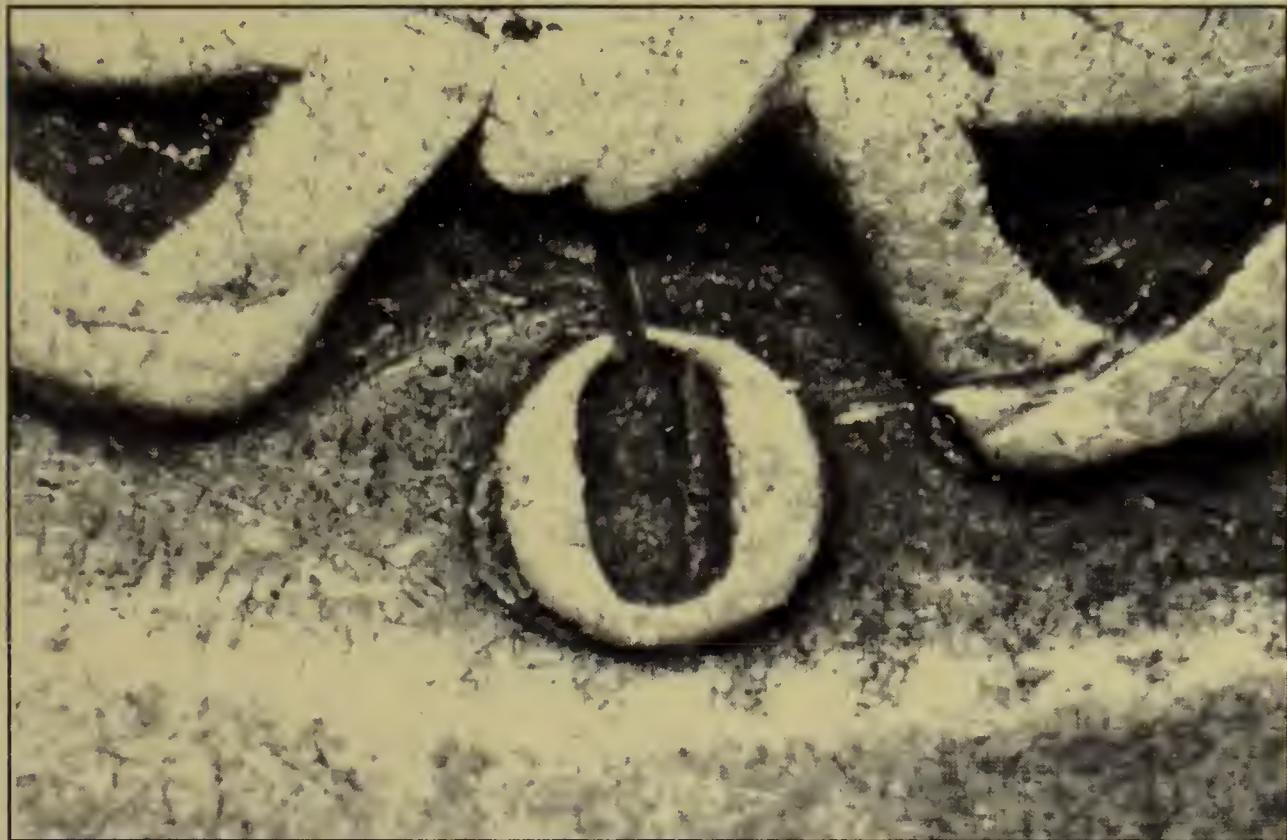
Number 4



2002

**“1909-O over Inverted D” Dime?**

See page 6



**...or a doubled O mint mark?**

*Cover photo by Tom Mulvaney*



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**JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

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Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein

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## CONTENTS

- Page 4.....BCCS President's Message
- Page 5.....Letter from the Editor
- Page 6....."Thoughts on the '1909-O over Inverted D' Dime" by Tom Mulvaney
- Page 8.....Barber Bits from Ralph Vignola
- Page 9....."Illustrating Varieties" by Steve Hustad
- Page 14...."The Grading Nuances of Circulated Barber Halves" by Tyler Child
- Page 19...."Look at Why You Collect Coins" by Russell Easterbrooks
- Page 20...."An Old Favorite" by Lindsay Ashburn
- Page 22....BCCS Treasurer's Annual Report



## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This time of year is the period when I spend more time enjoying numismatics. I suppose the duration of where the ‘more time’ reference applies is post-December holidays through late spring. What type of numismatic activities punctuates this period? My library is known to some BCCS members along with moving to a new home in late Fall 2000 after marrying Mary Clare. I’m still unpacking and reshelfing books and auction catalogs. We have social friends who periodically inquire about this effort! My response: “A work in progress.”

Activities closer to the Barber scene include catching up reading numismatic publications, reading in a more leisurely fashion current auction catalogs and following up on notes I’ve written earlier categorized as ‘find this,’ ‘read this again’ or ‘look at my coin.’ I also spent some time at my bank box looking at Barbers I purchased for my dime set earlier. My written records indicate certain coins are satisfactory. However, this recent review suggests some are lesser quality than what I currently purchase. [Does any collector relate to the passion of finding a long-desired date, rejoicing when one opens the package while excusing some flaw or blemish on this ‘beauty’ in-the-hand?] I now have a new list of coins to improve when available.

We have many members closely tied to the coin market; they have a keener perspective on what is the present Barber buy—sell barometer. My personal belief is Barbers are at a state of reduced availability at shows and major auctions. I’d appreciate support or opposition on this thought, at least as it applies to the AU to gem BU segment.

I’ve identified auction highlights in this column where something seems remarkable. Here’s something: Heritage offered at their January FUN sale a roll of Barber dimes dated 1892. The coins were graded by PCGS and ranged from MS-63 to MS-6?. What evidence indicates this is an original roll? The group only represented 49 coins; the remaining piece was returned ungraded and was described as blackened on one side. An interesting picture with a few gaps.

As to shows, I am planning to attend the spring Milwaukee show and the Chicago International Coin Fair.

Please send Eileen or me a comment on an article in this issue or on the ramblings and opinions expressed in this very message. May all our members find this year to be a high tide for their pursuit of numismatics.

Numismatic regards,  
Phil Carrigan



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Please note that my e-mail address has been changed to [emcrib@optonline.net](mailto:emcrib@optonline.net).

Tucked inside this issue of the Journal, you will find a flyer announcing the entries in our annual literary contest. Please take a few minutes to look over the articles listed (some can be found in this issue) and vote for the ones you enjoyed the most. It won't be an easy choice as we have published many interesting and informative articles during this editorial year. Mail your ballot to Paul Reuter. His address is on the form. Remember, to have your vote count, please get it to Paul by April 15th. Winners will be announced in the Spring Journal.

Those of you who have not yet renewed your BCCS membership for the upcoming year will also find a membership renewal form enclosed.

As we wrap up our 12th year, I wish to again thank all of you who have contributed articles and information to the Journal. An editor's worst nightmare is not having enough material on hand and so I appeal to all BCCS members to please consider writing something for the Journal. This is one area where you can really be an enormous help. Your experiences collecting Barbers are of interest to your fellow collectors and your article or story may provide motivation and incentive for others to share their personal experiences. More importantly, you will be amazed at the amount of satisfaction you'll feel at seeing your article or story in print.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to tell you that two numismatic publications, Numismatic News and Canadian Coin News, have graciously given us permission to reprint in future issues of the Journal Barber-related articles recently published by them. You will find both articles, one on dimes and the other on halves, fascinating reading.

### THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS April 15th**

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# More Thoughts on the “1909-O over Inverted D” Dime

by Tom Mulvaney

Over the years, there have been numerous references to the “alleged” 1909-O/inverted D dime. From my readings in the Journal and elsewhere, it seems the latest thinking regarding this variety is that it is a doubled O mint mark and not an “O over inverted D.”

My first encounter with this variety came in 1973 shortly after I went to work for (the now defunct) Paramount International Coin Corporation of Englewood, OH. One day, while doing some research and cataloging, I discovered that Paramount had sold a well-worn example of this coin in one of their auctions a few years prior to my joining the firm. There was even a convincing photo of the coin in the catalogue.

In Walter Breen’s Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins (published in 1988), the coin is listed as being “Presently very rare.” Breen cited Michael Pollack and ANACS for discovering the variety in 1974. For the record, Breen’s “discovery” information is *not* correct as Paramount’s offering of this variety at public auction, no less, definitely took place a few years prior to 1974, probably in the 1967-1972 period before I joined the company.

For nearly thirty years, I have looked at every 1909-O dime that has come my way and have found only three or four with the inverted D under the O. All of them were in grades ranging from About Good to Very Good. I have *never* heard of a fully mint state example and have never seen anything above a Fine. At least Breen appeared to be correct about the “rarity” aspect.

What do you think? Is it an “O over inverted D?”

I offer you photos of the piece I presently own. I think the pictures speak for themselves. David W. Akers, my good friend *and* foremost authority on U.S. coinage, is convinced this *is definitely* an “O over inverted D” and not a doubled mint mark. I remain perplexed, however, why so many still do not recognize this variety.



Above is an enlargement of the photo shown on the cover.

*All photos by Tom Mulvaney*

### For BARBER COLLECTORS ONLY

Collector of Barber coins wants to sell his extra coins. All coins are original and problem free. Shipping extra. Ten day return.

|                           |          |                             |          |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1892-O HALF PCI VG8.....  | \$165.00 | 1907-D HALF RAW FN15.....   | \$25.00  |
| 1896 HALF PCI FN15.....   | \$60.00  | 1908 HALF PCI FN15.....     | \$25.00  |
| 1897-O HALF PCGS FN15.... | \$325.00 | 1908-O HALF RAW FN15.....   | \$25.00  |
| 1899-S HALF PCI FN12..... | \$40.00  | 1908-S HALF PCI FN12.....   | \$40.00  |
| 1899-S HALF PCI VF30..... | \$80.00  | 1910 HALF PCI FN12.....     | \$55.00  |
| 1900-O HALF PCI FN12..... | \$35.00  | 1910-S HALF PCI FN12.....   | \$25.00  |
| 1902-S HALF PCI FN12..... | \$42.00  | 1911-S HALF RAW FN12.....   | \$27.00  |
| 1903-O HALF PCI FN15..... | \$40.00  | 1913 HALF PCI VG10.....     | \$35.00  |
| 1903-O HALF PCI VF20..... | \$70.00  | 1913-S HALF PCI VF35.....   | \$90.00  |
| 1904 HALF PCI VF30.....   | \$65.00  | 1914-S HALF RAW FN12.....   | \$27.00  |
| 1904-O HALF RAW FN12....  | \$40.00  | 1896-O QUARTER PCI VF30.... | \$175.00 |
| 1905 HALF PCI FN12.....   | \$45.00  | 1902 QUARTER RAW FN15....   | \$30.00  |
| 1905 HALF RAW VF30.....   | \$75.00  | 1914-S QUARTER PCI FN15.... | \$125.00 |
| 1905-O HALF PCI VG8.....  | \$25.00  | 1896-S DIME PCI VF30.....   | \$230.00 |
| 1905-S HALF PCI FN12..... | \$35.00  | 1904-S DIME PCI VF20.....   | \$150.00 |
| 1907 HALF RAW FN12.....   | \$20.00  |                             |          |

I would consider selling my complete Fine/Very Fine collection of HALFS. Inquire.

Monte Stewart 816-524-3934

## **BARBER BITS**

BCCS member **Ralph Vignola** shares the following information:

I have an 1892-0 10c (189/189 West, #101 David Lawrence; date shifted to the left) in good condition with full rims. I also have an 1892-0 10c in good condition with full rims and what I believe is a normal date. On one specimen, the 1 in the date is beneath the B on the bust. On the other, the 1 is well left of the B on the bust. For two coins that are the same, they are quite different!

*Editor's note:* Ralph submitted his coins to our own Barber Dime authority, **Lindsay Ashburn**, who photographed and labeled them as follows:

**1892-O 10c:** normal date with typical positioning (the 1 points at the left edge of B in the bust).



**1892-O 10c: RPD (189/189 West)** with far left positioning. The 1 points well left of the B in the bust. The original date extends even beyond the left edge of the bust.



These and other Barber Dime photos can be viewed at Lindsay's Barber Dime Errors & Varieties website: <http://www.geocities.com/eureka/concourse/4920/index.htm>

Many thanks to Ralph Vignola for his contribution.

# Illustrating Varieties

by Steve Hustad

I'll start with a correction and clarification regarding one of the plates included in the last installment: On the obverse plate for the 1/1892/2, Type II, Small date, RPD-S & N/NW quarter, I mistakenly noted a diagnostic die crack as occurring "between stars three & four," when obviously, the plate shows it between stars four & five! I'm sure everyone spotted my error, but thought I'd mention it anyway. Also, when this same plate was reduced, the repunching on "1" did not show up as well as it shows on the original. The "1" shows its first punch just beneath the upper serif (at the 1's upper left, under the serif that is).

Moving along with this issue, we'll examine and plate some 1892 Barber quarter die varieties from the New Orleans and San Francisco Mints:

## 2nd installment: 1892 New Orleans & San Francisco Quarters

### **1892 O/O, Type I, Large Date, RPM - East (1 plate, plate coin is AU-50)**

This coin is listed as "Lawrence 101" in Dave's *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*. The plate coin might be a mid die state piece due to the single flaw noted. The repunched "O" is easy to see in the right light, but will require you to bring your loupe to the coin show in order to 'cherrypick' this one! There is nothing unusual about the obverse except to note that it is from (one of the?) the large date dies.

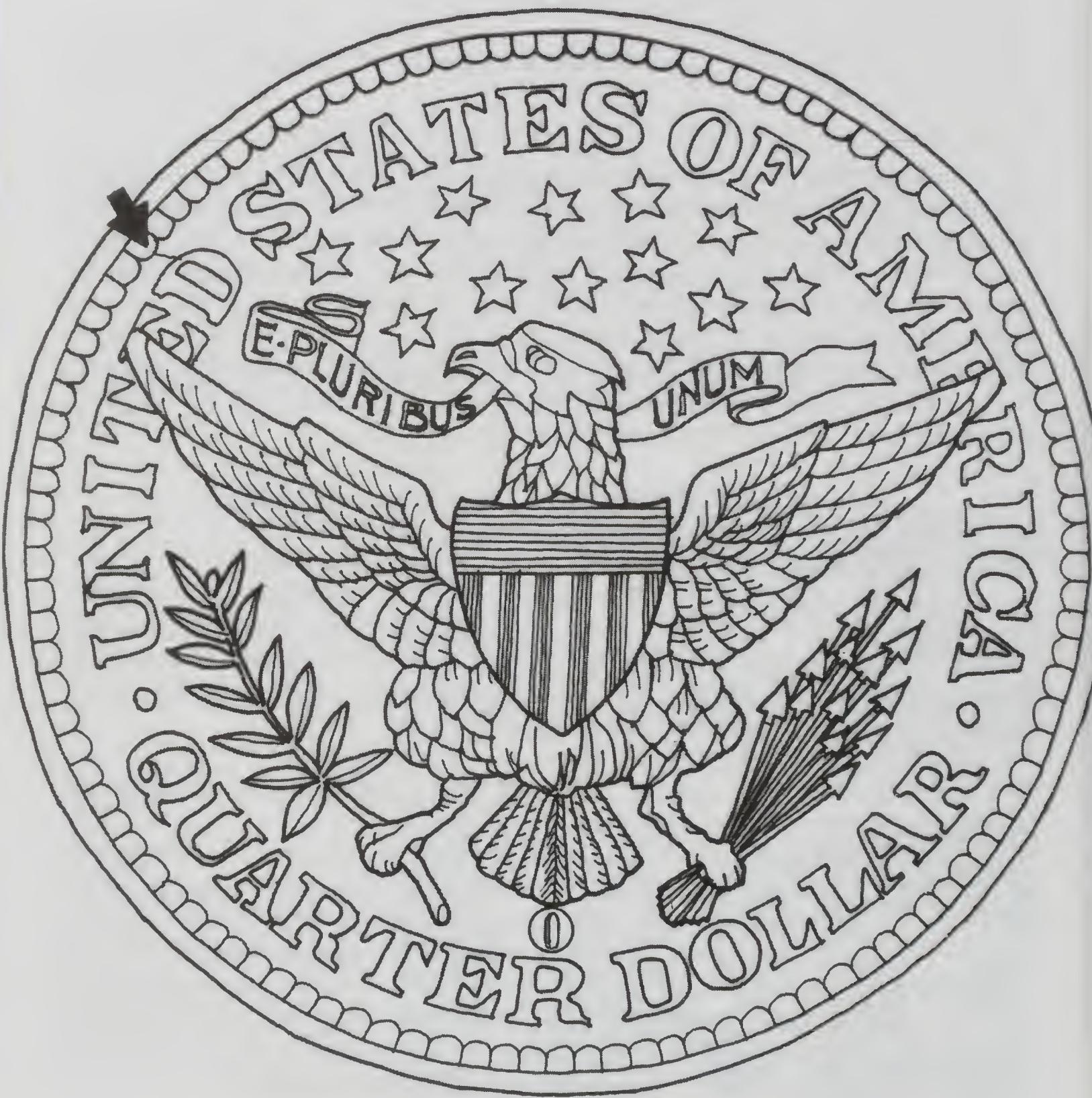
### **1892 S, Type I, Small Date - Doubled Die Reverse, Narrow Reeding (1 plate, plate coin is F-12) No Lawrence designation.**

The doubling is illustrated with the superimposed arrows indicating start and stop points primarily. Very bold - even on this F-12 piece! This coin also exhibits the 'narrow reeded collar' that I mentioned in my previous article on the varieties of 1892 quarters, having 136 'teeth,' vs. the more usual 124. No other points worth mentioning other than at the date, the 9 and 2 are weakly punched into the die - so look for this characteristic too. I have a VF-30 coin that also appears to be from this very same obverse die (same weak 9 and 2, date to denticle positioning AND with a narrow reeded collar used) - but with a different reverse die (no doubled die and a slightly different mintmark positioning).

### **1892 S/S, Type I, Small Date, RPM - West (1 plate, plate coin is EF-40)**

Listed as Lawrence 101, this coin has a normal obverse but a strongly repunched S to the west. This is a well-known variety and is fairly common... well, relative to most other varieties, that is! Plate coin would appear to be a very early die state as it's very boldly struck in every aspect with now evident die wear/damage.

That's it for this issue. Next time we'll show four plates of 1893 "O" and "S" mint quarter varieties. I hope you continue to find these of some small use and that they contribute to your enjoyment of this great hobby! If you save these sheets from each BCCS issue, you can assemble a handy reference when this series is finally completed - in about 2008!



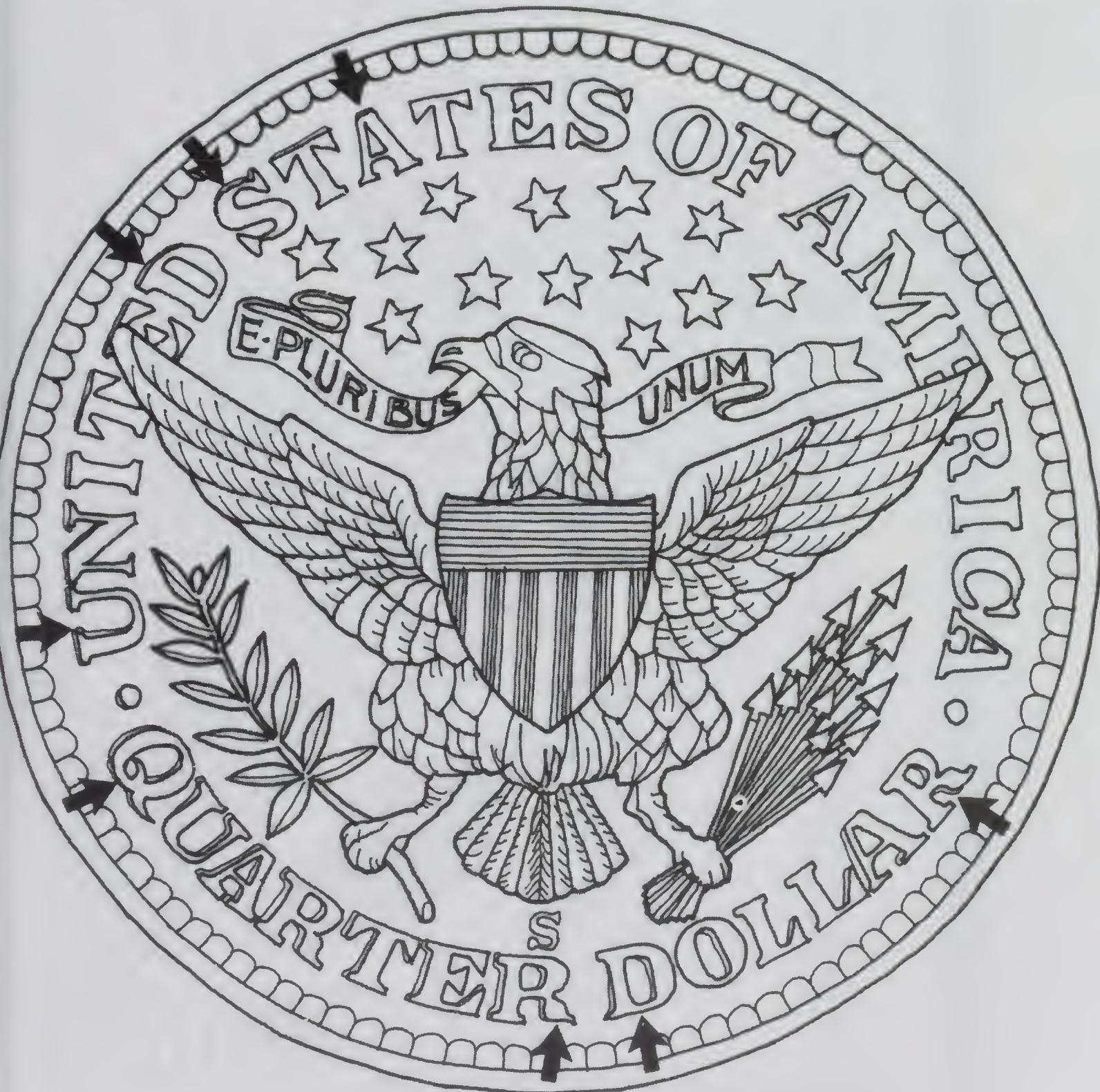
OBVERSE: Normal.

REVERSE: The 'O' mintmark was originally punched into the East of the final 'O.' Bold repunching, but close to the final mintmark so you must tilt the coin in good light to see this RPM. (Lawrence 101)

#### DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: None seen. Rev.: Only one thin diagnostic die crack from the 'D' in 'UNITED' to the denticles at the rim.

1892-S I (S.D.) REVERSE, NARROW REEDING QUARTER

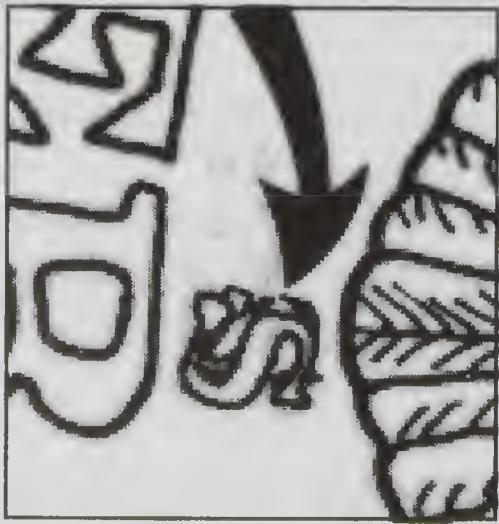


OBVERSE: Normal, though the 9 and 2 of the date are weakly punched into the die.

REVERSE: Strike doubled legend (to the West and Northwest). Fine, flat, shelflike doubling through 'QUARTER DOLLAR' and 'UNITED STA.' This coin was struck with the narrow reeded collar - 136 teeth vs. the usual 124.

DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: None seen. Rev.: None seen.



# 1892-S/S I RPM-West

## QUARTER

(L.D.) (Lawrence 101)

OBVERSE: Normal

REVERSE: The mint mark was originally punched in to the west and a bit north of the final 'S.' Heavy remnants remain and are quite bold though some portions have been polished away. This mint mark slants slightly to the right.

DIE DEFECTS:

Obv.: None seen. Rev.: None seen.



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# The Grading Nuances of Circulated Barber Halves

by Tyler Child

Barber Halves have been my passion for 18 months now since I resumed collecting. From the many thousands of specimens I have seen, a realization that not all Barber dates are created equal has become apparent.

It is every collector's desire to obtain quality specimens at a price below what the coin is actually worth or at what the coin has been graded by the seller. Knowing the nuances of grading can assist the collector to buy the most coin for his dollar and avoid paying top dollar for coins that may be lacking detail relative to the grading averages seen in the rest of the series. (The grading averages are the ANA standards and the current grading standards amongst knowledgeable collectors in the marketplace.) Since my experience is very limited above XF45, my observations will focus on the grades of VG10 through XF45.

Barber Halves can be quite easy to grade in the circulated grades up to XF45. Probably 80% - 90% of a coin's grade is determined solely by LIBERTY & the ribbon. This is the highest point and wears first, thus the importance. However, the remaining detail can wear in different relations to LIBERTY, having more or less detail on the coin's entire design. As a collector, I am not buying 7 incused letters, I am buying a three dimensional coin. For me, all the detail is important to the coin's overall beauty.

I have separated my observations into 2 distinct categories:

1. Protected LIBERTY
2. Exposed LIBERTY &
- 2(a) weaker struck obverse

Protected LIBERTY presents the greatest challenge to collectors in obtaining a uniformly detailed piece relative to LIBERTY's technical grade.

1909-P, O & S

The most consistently over-graded date in the Barber Half series. Because of a more protected LIBERTY, the overall detail will usually grade 1/2 to 1 full grade less. F15's can have a complete LIBERTY and 3/4 complete ribbon. Fines pass as

VF, and VF's are sold as XF. Ironically, my first half was a properly graded VF. Every specimen I have seen exhibits this disparity (about 100).



1909-S F15

1915-P, D & S

The last year of issue also seems to have a more protected LIBERTY. I have noticed a 1/4 to 1/2 grade difference of LIBERTY's technical grade relative to the coin's detail. F12 will often be missing the last laurel leaf, and average looking VF20's will often have bold lettering giving the appearance of a VF25-30. The reverse wing feather detail on VF20's often will be scant. XF's will have reverse wing tip feathers that are barely complete. Most of the specimens (60 or so) I have encountered exhibit this characteristic.



1915-D VF20

1910-P & S

Same as the 1915 years, a 1/4 to 1/2 difference exists. My 1910-P F18 and VF20 both have nearly identical reverse detail which lacks overall VF status. I have seen this on 10 of the Fines and VF's I have encountered. Because of the strong Liberty, I feel the 1910-P is the most available semi-key date in the series in F12-F18. (I'll still buy them!)

1905-P

Up to 1/4 point difference for all four years. This is most evident in the VG10 to VF range. The face and wreath can seem flat and worn up to F18. In Fine I, look for F15-18 to make sure enough detail is present.

1908-P & D

1912-P & D

1913-D

Exposed LIBERTY affords the best opportunity for collectors to purchase the most detail for their money.

1892-S

The early S Mint coins are the best example of a LIBERTY that wears much faster than the overall design does. Most dates that I have seen will have up to 1/2 grade strength in the overall detail compared to LIBERTY's technical grade. The biggest swing in Obverse/Reverse detail I have encountered is the 1895-S. It can easily have a disparity of 1 to 2 full grades! I owned a XF45 that was missing the legs of R. My current specimen should grade XF45, but is technically VF30-35. I have noticed this on every 95-S mid-grade I have encountered (6 or so). Other obvious dates are the 92-S & 93-S. In F+ through VF +, the eagle looks to be on steroids and will have feather detail bursting at the seams. I have examples of all of the listed dates and every one, along with the vast majority that I have seen, exhibited much stronger reverse detail and over-all design features compared to LIBERTY.

1893-S

&

1902-S



1893-S F12





1895-S XF40



1903-P

A challenging date in mid-grade, the 3 examples I have owned had solid VF reverses with a technical F18 LIBERTY. My XF appears balanced.

1905-S

Perhaps up to a 1/4 difference exists. I have seen too few to make a solid conclusion. I have owned 3 with a 1/4 grade disparity.

Exposed LIBERTY / Weak obverse strike. A subcategory of exposed LIBERTY.

1895-O

1898-O &

1900-O

These dates are most consistently seen with weaker obverse strikes. However, many early O Mints can be seen with a weaker strike. The 1895-O seems to be affected to the greatest degree. Miss Barber will have mushy hair and LIBERTY area. Look for fuller inner rim denticles in VG10-VF.



1900-O F18





**1900-O F18:** With the naked eye, LIBERTY will seem nearly gone in VG-F18. Upon magnification, much of the lettering is apparent.

The final decision to buy or not rests with the collector and his desire to add quality specimens. Hopefully, these grading nuances can help the collector weigh his decision in purchasing coins that have an overall grade commensurate to the selling price.

Mostly it is my desire that the whole design be incorporated into the grading scale more accurately. Until it is, some small pitfalls can be avoided and advantages exist for the collector who knows the grading nuances of mid-grade Barber halves.



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# Look at Why You Collect Coins

by Russell Easterbrooks

Coin collecting is an enjoyable endeavor which offers countless hours of satisfaction and attaining goals. “Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder” is an old adage which clearly fits the coin collecting hobby. I have always believed that #10 original Barber Dimes are a far more enjoyable purchase than #1 MS-63 dimes. The collector who is most concerned about the investment of his coin collecting dollars would disagree with my thoughts until his MS-63 coin sells for MS-60 money years later. The entanglements associated with grading coins is far more suggestive when you reach the uncirculated or Mint state grades. The VF to XF grades are also subject to grading differences of opinion, yet at a far reduced initial cost and subsequent value.

I buy a car to meet my transportation needs, not to realize a profit years later when I sell it. Look at coin collecting the same way. Does coin collecting meet your needs, enjoyment, satisfaction and offer you reachable goals? If it does, your money is well spent regardless of the resale value of your collection years later.

Which coins you collect is entirely up to your interest. Design beauty, ability to retain the design in circulated grades and history surrounding the time a given coin was made are all important when selecting coins to collect. Will you be collecting by date, mintmark, the entire set or just selected years, as well as are your goals attainable?

For many years, I have collected Barber Dimes and colonial coins. I have assembled numerous “sets” in various grades and quality. The knowledge and collecting satisfaction I have had over the years exceeds my wildest expectations! My numismatic writing and research have been published in coin collecting literature across the nation, with the hope to inspire and inform other collectors.

My interest began looking through coins Dad had saved in a jar, followed by visits to small local coin dealers. “A journey begins with a single step” and the fact that you’re reading this publication indicates that you’ve taken the first step to becoming a knowledgeable coin collector. Now sit back, watch your collection grow and enjoy the experience!

# An Old Favorite

by Lindsay Ashburn

What is it that makes an object your favorite? Whether it is a favorite chair, a favorite song or your favorite worn-out jeans, they all have something in common. They have a certain intangible attraction that escapes description. You know it's there, but you can't quite put your finger on it. Maybe an object is your favorite because it reminds you of some pleasant memory or provides a little more comfort or satisfaction than the rest. Whatever the connection, it's your favorite and you know it. There's no right or wrong favorite because each person has to decide what that is for himself.

The same notion of favorites applies to coins. In fact, this is a story about one of my favorite coins, a variety of the 1914-D dime with the 'blundered' mintmark. Repunched mintmarks are abundant in the series and perhaps are more abundant in this date than any other. You may wonder what sets this one apart. Typically, repunched dates or mintmarks appear to be minor adjustments in punch placement during die preparation. For most RPM's and RPD's, an argument can be made on whether the changes in punch placement were accidental or intentional to better 'center' the details.

A bit of the excitement leaves when you think the variety was caused by a lack of concern for detail and precision. From the other side, though, it is also discomforting to believe that repositioning a punch by a millimeter to improve the overall appearance is intentional. Would I enjoy my job if I were that uptight about details? I don't think so.

However, when the repunched variety is clearly a reaction to 'Oops!' then the excitement returns. The 1914-D dime I speak of is just such a coin. This variety is not a new discovery, nor is it especially rare. It can be found if you look long enough, though I have not seen it in grades above VF-XF. Though it does not bring a substantial premium, I believe it is a better value than other RPM's because of the wide separation and that intangible attraction. One doesn't have to be an expert to see this variety and figure out what went wrong.



This variety can be found with or without strike doubling. Both types are pictured here to better illustrate the variety. Though strike doubling adds nothing to a coin's value, it does add flair to one of my favorite Barber dimes.

'Til next time, happy hunting!

*After much anticipation, I have received the list of Barber dime, quarter and half varieties compiled by Kevin Flynn for his new book. The data was manipulated into tabular form and put on my website. It can be seen at [www.geocities.com/barberdime](http://www.geocities.com/barberdime). Kevin lacks photos of several of the known varieties. This information is also included in the listings.*

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# BCCS Annual Treasurer's Report

**Opening balance January 1, 2001** \$5196.43

## Receipts

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Dues        | 3410.00   |
| Advertising | 20.00     |
| Back issues | 300.00    |
| Donation    | 25.00     |
| Total       | \$3755.00 |

**Total funds available:** \$8951.43

## Expenses

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Journal production  | 4280.87   |
| Postage             | 275.43    |
| ANA dues & donation | 79.00     |
| Bank charges        | 7.56      |
| Total               | \$4642.86 |

**Closing balance December 31, 2001** \$4308.57

Paul Reuter  
Secretary/Treasurer



## BCCS ADVERTISEMENT RATES

|          |                  |                    |
|----------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1/8 page | 1 issue.....\$12 | 4 issues.....\$40  |
| 1/4 page | 1 issue.....\$20 | 4 issues.....\$70  |
| 1/2 page | 1 issue.....\$30 | 4 issues.....\$100 |
| 1 page   | 1 issue.....\$70 | 4 issues.....\$250 |

|                                   |                 |                    |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 page inside front or rear cover | 1 issue..\$80   | 4 issues.....\$300 |
| 1 page outside rear cover         | 1 issue...\$125 | 4 issues.....\$400 |

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